

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.969
Amateur Radio Newsline #969 10 MAR 1996

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #969 - POSTED 03/10/96

The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

Editorial comments, news item and all other business should be directed to:

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
Newsline Producer & Editor

Internet E-mail: 3241437@mcimail.com
MCI E-mail: WESTRADIO
Phone: (805) 296-7180
Fax: (805) 296-7180
(Fax senders wait for voice prompt.)

Hardcopy comments or complements can be directed to:

Dale Cary, WD0AKO
Hardcopy Distribution for Newsline

Internet E-mail: wd0ako@rrnet.com
MCI E-mail: DCARY
Phone: (218) 236-6324

The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary,

WD0AKO at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, Florida.....	(407) 768-7447
Houston, Texas.....	(713) 362-4650
Conroe, Texas.....	(409) 525-6250

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie (RTC Bulletin Board).....	m345;1
GEnie (File Library).....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
Delphi.....	In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0
MicroSoft Network.....	Amateur Radio File Library
Internet.....	In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
Internet FTP: oak.oakland.edu.....	
In archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline	
Local BBS's.....	In the Ham Radio conferences on
Fidonet, RIME, Intelec, I-Link, AR-Net and Fringenet.	

True Speech Internet Site

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<http://www.scott.net/~wa4fat>

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an S.A.S.E. at:

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You,
NEWSLINE

(*****)

Some of the hams of AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE:

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY KU8R
N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN and many
others in the United States and around the globe!!!

(*****
[969]

(* * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * *)
(* * * * * *)
(* The following advisory is not for transmission over *)
(* amateur radio. This is just a reminder that the address *)
(* for the Newsline Support Fund is: *)
(* * * * * *)
(* NEWSLINE SUPPORT FUND *)
(* c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ *)
(* P.O.Box 660937 *)
(* Arcadia, California *)
(* 91066 *)
(* * * * * *)
(* Again and as always, we thank you. This ends the *)
(* closed circuit with Newsline report number 969 for release *)
(* on Friday, March 8, 1996 to follow. *)
(* * * * * *)
(* * * * * *)

The following is a QST

The FCC now says that hams who work in the Amateur Radio industry can become Volunteer Examiners, a bomb blast destroys the headquarters of the United Kingdoms Radiocommunications Agency and bad news on HF

band conditions for at least another year. These stories and more on Newsline report number 969 coming your way right now!

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VEC CHANGE

Your favorite radio salesman may soon be giving ham radio exams. This is because the FCC has formally eliminated conflict-of-interest provisions that had kept those involved in the manufacture, distribution or sale of ham radio gear from taking part in the VEC testing system. The FCC action also conforms the ham radio rules to the new Communications Act of 1996, recently signed into law by President Clinton.

The former provisions essentially precluded equipment manufacturers and their employees and anyone who prepares or distributes ham radio license study materials from administering Amateur Radio license examinations. The purpose was to prevent an employee from favoring examinees who had purchases manuals or equipment produced or distributed by the VE or the VE's employer. The FCC has concluded that other rules provisions, combined with current Amateur Radio license examination procedures, will protect against potential abuses.

The Commission has also eliminated a requirement that volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators maintain records of out-of-pocket expenses and annually certify those expenses to the FCC.

The FCC says that VEs and VECs still may recover actual out-of-pocket costs from examinees. The maximum reimbursement fee is six dollars and seven cents for 1996.

The rules changes became effective February 28th. The FCC says that because each exam is administered by three VEs and coordinated by a VEC it would be highly unlikely for any examinee to be favored by a VE or VEC. The agency notes that twelve years of experience with the VEC system has shown that breaches of trust by VEC's and VE's can be dealt with swiftly and immediately. This, by discrediting the offending VEs or rescinding the VEC agreement.

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FCC TO VEC'S: COOPERATE

The FCC has told the nations VEC's to stop bickering and to cooperate in all aspects of testing. As reported last week, the American Radio Relay League has asked that the commission declare the current VEC mechanism to be null and void. This, because the League believes that a decision by most of the nations VEC's to incorporate leaves those who do not want to join the new organization out in the cold in maintaining the test question pool.

It now looks as if the FCC is not going to heed the Leagues call to create a new mechanism. Probably because the FCC has new telecommunications legislation to implement and it cannot chance

getting itself involved in a protracted court battle should the new National Council of Volunteer Examination Coordinators decide to sue for restraint of free trade.

But the FCC does at least appear to sympathize with the Leagues position. In the notice announcing the testing rules changes just reported, the regulatory agency took pains to point out that Section 97.523 requires VECs to cooperate in maintaining a single question pool for each examination element. As a result, all exam materials and manuals must draw from that same standard question pool, which is widely available to the public.

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NOVICE & TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL REWRITE

And speaking about the VEC Question Pool, Gordon West, WB6NOA, informs us that June 30th is the cutoff date for the consideration of new or deleted questions for the Novice and Technician class pools. As is always the case, the Question Pool Committee is inviting the ham radio public to take part in revising the testing syllabus for exam elements 2 and 3A. New questions should center around the FCC rules, operating practices and procedures, propagation, electrical principles, practical circuits and circuit components plus signals emissions and antennas and feedlines.

The Question Pool Committee will only review submissions on their form titled Recommended Change to the Amateur Question Pool. You can get a copy by writing to the:

Question Pool Committee
c/o Ray Adams, N4BAQ
5833 Clinton Highway
Suite 203
Knoxville, Tennessee
37912

Forms are also available from:

Fred Maia, W5YI
P.O.Box 565101
Dallas, Texas
75356

If you don't want to wait for a form, Gordon West says that you can drop him a note with your suggested question or change and he will gladly submit a form for you. Gordon's address is:

Gordon West, WB6NOA
2414 College Drive
Costa Mesa, California

92626

The finalized new Novice and Technician Class question pools will be placed into public domain as ASCII files on December 1st. Printed copies will become available next January the 1st. Testing using the revised Novice and Technician question pool will begin on July 1st of 1997 -- about 16 months from now.

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RETIRED ARRL DIRECTOR SLAIN

One of the two hams found murdered in Mississippi on February 23rd was a retired ARRL Director and a well-known DXer. As reported last week, Floyd Teetson, W5MUG, and his wife, Winnie, WN5YTR, were found on February 23rd. Police reports say that the couple had been killed a day or two earlier.

From 1962 to 1963 Floyd Teetson served as ARRL Delta Division Director. According to an ARRL press release, W5MUG was an honor roll DXer and active contesteer. He had been a member of several multi-op contest teams operating from various Caribbean DX sites.

A native of Wisconsin, Floyd Teetson was a retired electrical engineer who had been employed by the telephone company in Jackson, Mississippi. The couple moved to Louisiana from Mississippi five or six years ago.

The Webster Parish Louisiana Sheriff's Department and Louisiana State Police are investigating, but no arrests have been made. Nor have authorities speculated on a motive for the brutal killings.

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BOMB DESTROYS UK RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY BUILDING

The new office the United Kingdoms Radiocommunications Agency has been severely damaged in the recent bomb blast. The GB2RS News Service says that following the explosion on February 8th, the Radiocommunications Agency was forced to move out of its headquarters building. At this time the Agency does not know where or when it will be relocated.

The Radio Licensing Center at Bristol was unaffected and thankfully none of the agencies' staff was badly hurt in the incident. The Radiocommunications Agency is Great Britain's equivalent of our FCC.

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BLIND HAMS NEED HELP

Also from Great Britain comes word that an organization that aids handicapped hams has added a new service for the visually impaired. The Radio Amateurs Invalid and Blind Club is looking to hear from

blind amateurs who would like to receive tape recordings of readings from technical magazines. On tape already are selections from Radio Communications Magazine, Practical Wireless, Short Wave Magazine and others. The service is free in the United Kingdom but those making requests will need to supply their own audio cassettes. Visually handicapped hams elsewhere should write for details to:

Shelagh Chambers
78 Durley Avenue
Pinner
Middlesex
The United Kingdom
HA5 1JH

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HAMS RESCUE ALZHEIMERS PATIENT

A missing 87 year old Alzheimers patient has been found alive in Indiana thanks to ham radio. Jack Parker, NT9J of Amateur News Weekly has more:

"The Bartholomew County search and rescue team was activated. They assisted Brown and Barthlowmew County Authorities in the search for a 87 year old man with Alzheimers. The man had walked away from his home Helmsberg, IN on Monday. He was found late Tuesday afternoon about 1/4 mile from home suffering from frostbite on his feet. The Bartholomew Country Search and Rescue provided communications via amateur radio for the search team." NT9J

Hams have been praised for their efforts in this search.

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PHASE 3D SHOCK TESTS SUCCESSFUL

AMSAT North America says a series of qualification shock tests have been successfully completed for the Phase 3D specific bearing structure. That's the structure which will be used to carry the Phase 3D spacecraft into orbit during launch. The tests in late January and early February exposed the structure to the shock environment expected to be encountered on the Ariane 5 vehicle during liftoff. Tests also successfully demonstrated the operational performance of the spacecraft's separation system.

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AMATEUR RADIO DEMONSTRATES NASA EMPHASIS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The ARRL has made arrangements with two Amateur Radio volunteers to

represent the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment at the Technology and Learning Conference in Dallas, in October. The conference will be attended by school administrators. NASA, which approached the ARRL about the conference feels that SAREX should be included because it helps reinforce the U.S. government's heightened emphasis on telecommunications. The presentation will also cover NASA Spacelink, a telephone and Internet-accessible information system for school teachers, and NASA TV.

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BAD SOLAR NEWS

Solar prognosticator Tad Cook, KT7H, reports via the ARRL that solar activity has edged even lower. Cook says that there have been no visible sunspots since the beginning of the month, and the sunspot number was zero for the period February 8th to 14th. Solar flux was at or below 70 each day also.

Cook says that we should expect more periods of no sunspots as the current cycle bottoms out over the next year. Unfortunately, the geomagnetic field has been acting up a little. The worst period was around 09:00Z on February 13, when the K index was 5.

The 160 and 80 meter bands are really best when the solar flux is low, but an active geomagnetic field can disturb those low bands greatly but none seem imminent.

The latest information from the Space Environment Laboratory at Boulder, Colorado, agrees with Cook. It has updated its forecast for the sunspot minimum. It is not now expected to occur until early 1997, with a smoothed sunspot number down to 8.

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TOP BAND CODE PRACTICE IN UK

A new United Kingdom Morse practice station may be a good DX beacon for Top Band operators worldwide. The GB2CW Slow Morse practice transmission is now being broadcast at 20:15 UTC on Sundays on 1850 KHz in the 160 Meter band. The transmission is from the North Cheshire Radio Club, operated by Gordon Adams, G3LEQ, and is primarily intended for nationwide coverage in the UK.

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80 AND 6 METER UK CW CHANGES

There has also been a small change to the 80 and 6 meter GB2CW transmissions from G3LEQ. These are now broadcast at 9:45 UTC on Sundays on 3640 KHz and 51.530 MHz. DX QSN reports on any of the GB2CW transmissions are welcomed by the operators. You can contact the individual operators directly, or alternatively write to the coordinator:

David Pratt, G4DMP
11 Moorleigh Close
Kippax
Leeds
The United Kingdom
LS25 7PB

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DX

In other DX, Melville Island will be activated by VK8NSB and VK8HZ for four days starting on March 15th. Australian DX sources say that the operation has been finally given the go ahead after a lot of hard work and negotiations from the aboriginal community. The call sign for this DXpedition will be VK8MI operating on all bands, including 6 Meters.

Also XV7SW, in Vietnam has reportedly put up an Inverted L antenna for 80 and 160 meters and be adding an Inverted Vee for 40 meters. His location in downtown Hanoi is very noisy and he is limited to 100 watts on the TopBand. The terms of his license limit him to specific frequencies. QSL direct to:

Rolf Salme
Embassy of Sweden
Box 9
Hanoi
Vietnam

or to his QSL Manager SM3CXS.

And Jim Smith, VK9NS, says that the VK0WH logs covering November 26th to December 31, 1995 have been received from Warren Hull via fax.

Warren made slightly more than 200 contacts during that time. Jim anticipates receiving VK0WH logs on a monthly basis. Jim also received the VK0WH QSL cards from the printer and says that he will QSL immediately upon receipt if he has the appropriate log in hand.

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YHOTY '96 NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

A reminder that the nominating period for 1996 "Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award" is now open. The award program, now entering its second decade, is presented annually to a United States licensed Radio Amateur who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby service.

All nominations must be submitted before June 30, 1996 on an official application. Application forms are available by sending a self addressed stamped envelope mailed to the:

1996 Young Ham of the Year Award
c/o Newsline
28197 Robin Avenue
Saugus, California
91350

These nominating applications are also available for electronic download from several sites that provide Newsline materials over the World Wide Web and from the Ham Radio Club BBS general interest ham files area on America Online.

And remember that the youngster chosen this year will get to spend a week at Spacecamp Huntsville complements of CQ Magazine.

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NEWSLINE PHONE SERVICE CUTBACK

And finally, due to the lack of response to our funding requests, and as a cost cutting measure, Newsline will soon shut down one of our two Los Angeles outgoing lines. Which line and the exact date has not been decided. We'll make that decision and announce it in a couple of weeks.

We realize this may pose an inconvenience for some listeners, and apologize in advance. However, with a dozen other independently sponsored lines across the nation and three audio sites on the World Wide Web, we hope those affected will be few in number.

This is the first cutback in outgoing voice service in over a decade. We hope it will be the last.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF at our editors desk, we at Newsline say 73 and we thank you for listening.

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